

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1178

By Akbari

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Thelma Brownlee on the celebration of her eightieth birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, an advocate for the poor and the homeless, Thelma Brownlee's efforts to provide food, clothing, and other necessities have made her known throughout the midtown, downtown, and south Memphis areas; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Brownlee worked as a sharecropper beginning at the age of four before leaving her native Como, Mississippi, in 1966 with her nine children to pursue a better life in Memphis, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, upon arriving in Memphis, Mrs. Brownlee set upon canvassing her neighborhood, identifying destructive and illegal activities and approaching residents who were detrimental to their communities with advice, intervention, and counsel; and

WHEREAS, as president of her Neighborhood Watch she continued to be active in the effort to keep the streets of south Memphis safe, instilling in her children the responsibility of community involvement; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Brownlee, affectionately known as "Ma," would live to see all nine of her children become ministers or activists, using history, the arts, and spiritual guidance to propel them further in their chosen careers; and

WHEREAS, her youngest, Stanley Campbell, has taken on his and his mother's lofty mission to create The Forgotten Souls Festival, The Annual Stone Awards, The Ma' and 9 Mustard Seeds Hall of Fame Award, and the House of Mtenzi Museum in Memphis, all benefitting those suffering from hardship and need; and

WHEREAS, we wish to grasp this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Thelma Brownlee on the celebration of her eightieth birthday and extend to her our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.